

**STATE OF VERMONT  
PUBLIC SERVICE BOARD**

Petition of Claire Solar Partners, LLC for a                    )  
Certificate of Public Good, pursuant to                        )  
30 V.S.A. Section 248, authorizing the                        )     Docket No. \_\_\_\_\_  
installation and operation of a 2.2 MW                        )  
solar electric generation facility located at                    )  
1545 Hinesburg Road, South Burlington, Vermont    )

**PETITION FOR CERTIFICATE OF PUBLIC GOOD**

NOW COMES Claire Solar Partners, LLC ("Claire Solar"), and files this Petition,  
pursuant to 30 V.S.A. § 248 and Public Service Board ("Board") Rule 5.400, requesting  
the Board to issue a Certificate of Public Good for the so-called Claire Solar Farm  
("Project").

By this Petition, Claire Solar represents as follows:

1. Claire Solar is a Vermont limited liability company, with principal offices at 410  
Shelburne Road, Burlington, Vermont 05401.
2. The Claire Solar Farm Project is a proposed 2.2 megawatt (MW) solar electric  
generation project to be located on approximately 21.3 acres of an 32.7-acre  
parcel at 1545 Hinesburg Road, South Burlington, Vermont.
3. The nameplate capacity of the Project is 2.2 megawatts (MW) AC. The Project is  
expected to produce a net energy output (after DC to AC conversion) of  
3,000,000 kWh per year. This is the equivalent of the annual electricity

consumption of over 400 homes, based upon the average residential electricity use in Vermont.<sup>1</sup>

4. The Project is being developed under the “Standard Offer” program. The Standard Offer contract was executed on May 3, 2012 with the SPEED Facilitator by John P. Larkin and has since been assigned to Claire Solar Partners, LLC. The Standard Offer contract provides for the sale of the Project’s output and other attributes (such as renewable energy credits), at a fixed price of \$0.271/kWh for a period of 25 years.
5. The Claire Solar Farm, as a renewable energy resource, would contribute to the State meeting its energy and sustainability goals, which include, by the year 2025, to produce 25 percent of the energy consumed within the state through the use of renewable energy sources, particularly from Vermont's farms and forests.
6. Claire Solar will also contribute positively to the local and State economy through the use of in-state suppliers, contractors, and consultants, and the payment of local and state property taxes.
7. The Project’s equipment consists of the following: polycrystalline solar photovoltaic modules, dual axis trackers supporting the modules, electrical lines and conduit connecting the modules to the inverters and point of interconnection with the utility lines. The solar array will consist of approximately 8,700-8,800 solar photovoltaic panels mounted on approximately 350-375 dual axis trackers. Each tracker will be comprised of a base, mast, PV frame, 24 panels, and a 6 kW mast inverter. All DC wiring will be limited to the tracker frame. Each tracker

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<sup>1</sup> Figure based on upon statewide average usage of 573 kWh/month. See Excel Sheet entitled Average Monthly residential electricity consumption, prices, and bills by state, available at <http://www.eia.gov/tools/faqs/faq.cfm?id=97&t=3>.

will have AC wiring running underground within conduit and terminates to individual circuit protection within combiner panel boards. Each combiner panel will feed into 1 of 20,200A fused disconnects. Each of the (20) 200A disconnect will in turn tie into 1 of 4, 500 kVA step-up transformers. The transformers' output will interconnect with Green Mountain Power Corporation ("GMP")'s existing 12.47 kV three-phase electric distribution line that currently runs along Route 116. Three (3) 15kVA medium voltage cables within 4" conduit will be buried about 4' deep and run approximately 1500' into the tracker farm. The trackers will be arranged in a grid, evenly spaced approximately 55' apart East to West, 45' apart North to South. The height of the trackers when tilted vertically will be about 20 feet off of the base. The tracker foundations consist of a helical screw-in pier that will be augured into the ground. In the event that ledge is encountered, precast concrete foundations will be installed.

8. In support of this Petition, Claire Solar submits testimony and exhibits that address each of the § 248 (b) criteria.

#### **Request for Relief**

WHEREFORE, Claire Solar respectfully requests this Board to:

- A. Hold a prehearing conference as expeditiously as possible on the Petition;
- B. Hold technical hearings, if the Board determines such hearings are necessary;
- C. Render a decision on this Petition as soon as possible;
- D. Make findings as required by 30 V.S.A. § 248 finding that Claire Solar shall be authorized to construct and operate a 2.2 MW solar electric generation facility located at

1545 Hinesburg Road, South Burlington, Vermont, and that the Project will promote the general good of the State of Vermont, and authorize Claire Solar to undertake the actions described herein and in the attached testimony and exhibits and issue a Certificate of Public Good to that effect; and

E. Take such other action as may be required for the expeditious review and approval of this Petition.

DATED at Burlington, Vermont, this 4th day of February, 2013.

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